

hundreds of fisherman, many political candidates seeking support and votes visited John's small Monterey office on the wharf.

Bricky worked with my father, the late Senator Fred Farr to draft and advocate legislation that allowed California's fisherman to collect unemployment benefits. This was one of Bricky's proudest achievements. A proud Italian-American, John also supported the predominantly Italian-American fishing community. He was instrumental in establishing and getting approval from the City of Monterey to have the bocce ball courts created which are still in use today.

Bricky was endearingly referred to within his community as a "character". He was a friend to everyone and very dedicated to his work and fishermen's rights. He was always talking about the plight of the fishermen never having enough money to make it, needing more tonnage and unemployment. Everyone within the community loved Bricky.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Bricky for his honor, humanity, and love for Monterey Bay and its people. John consistently was helpful and loyal as a friend, husband, father and advocate. Our thoughts go out to his family, Kathryn Alkire, John Crivello, and JoAnn Crivello. He was a good friend to me, taking the time to talk about the old days, about my father, and about his love for golfing at Rancho Cañada. I will miss him greatly, but know his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

PEACE CORPS: A MODEL FOR
HOPE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize that last week was National Peace Corps Week and to applaud the thousands of Americans who have represented the U.S. since 1961 in the Peace Corps in 138 countries. Emblematic of the idealism of America are the 15 volunteers from my district in Southeast Iowa who are currently serving on four continents, in desert villages, mountain towns and city centers from Ukraine to Panama and Morocco.

A Peace Corps volunteer is charged with three missions: the first is to help the people of host countries in meeting their need for trained professionals; the second is to help promote understanding of America around the world; and the third is to help expand American understanding of other peoples and countries.

Thus, the job of the Peace Corps volunteer is not over when their assignment is completed. Volunteers maintain a duty to share their grasp of the people, the language and the culture of the countries in which they served.

Not long ago, in a speech at Yale University, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, declared that he wanted to add a fourth goal: to "bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all."

No mission is more altruistic; nor more consequential. Geopolitical realists might consider such majesty of purpose to be naive. Actually,

there is no rational alternative in a world where history has known few generations unaffected by the strife of war; where the creation of weapons of mass destruction has increased the vulnerability of the human race. As Einstein noted, splitting the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. It is the capacity to think that, at its best, characterizes mankind, but, at its least impressive, has yet to be harnessed in such a way as to give confidence that modern man can live with modern technology.

It is in the context of concern for the common fate of all mankind the Peace Corps stands out as the singular institution in American society that provides a model for hope and a cause for optimism.

INTRODUCTON OF LEGISLATION
MAKING AERIAL FIREFIGHTERS
ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL DEATH
BENEFITS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, in April 1997, John Hirth of Buffalo, Wyoming, and his copilot lost their lives when their air tanker crashed near Blandburg, Pennsylvania. They were on a firefighting mission for a government agency, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

At the time, John was making an aerial scouting of the fire, referred to as a dry run. Fire conditions were gusty, and turbulent wind patterns resulted from the fire itself.

Immediately after dropping the fire retardant, their tanker encountered smoke which affected visibility.

Just as the air tanker flew out of the smoke, its right wing hit an oak tree which stood above the tree line. The aircraft rolled 90 degrees left and flew into the mountainside a quarter mile from the initial tree strike, exploding on impact and instantly killing John and his copilot.

In the mid-1990s, John tried to obtain life insurance through various agencies. He was turned down due to his occupation as an aerial firefighter.

At the time of his death, the business still had to meet payments on the 1997 fire contract operation (which included liability insurance, contract-paid pilots, fuel, oil, parts, etc.), as well as on a second tanker and one spray-er aircraft.

The financial loss from this crash was so devastating that his wife, Connie, did not have the money to pay for her husband's funeral.

While this is heartbreaking to us, it is a very stark reality that many families face when aerial firefighters are lost in the line of duty.

The fact is that the vast majority of those pilots lost were serving under a government contract at the time. They were providing aerial fire suppression services for the government when they lost their lives.

My reason for being here today is to correct a provision in law that is blatantly unfair.

I am re-introducing legislation that will provide some financial security to aerial firefighters and their families.

This legislation recognizes all pilots and crew involved in aerial fire suppression as

public safety officers. In doing so, the bill makes these deserving individuals eligible for death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, also known as PSOB.

Under current law, aerial firefighters who are under contract with the government are not afforded these benefits simply because they work for private companies that contract with the government.

However, without these contract pilots and crew, the federal government would not have the capabilities to deal with wild land fires.

This legislation is a matter of common sense. Aerial firefighters are public safety officers in every sense of the word. With dedication and enthusiasm, they protect our natural resources, our communities, and often our very lives.

Every day, when our men and women in the Armed Forces go out to do their job, they say to us, "I am willing to risk my life for you today." Our local police officers say it as well and, yes, my friends, so too do aerial firefighters.

John Hirth was the primary wage earner in his air tanker business and his family. If PSOB had been available to them at the time of John's death, the financial hardships endured by his wife could have been minimized.

It is time we start giving back to aerial firefighters because, if we don't, we will be losing a valuable resource. With no aerial firefighters to protect our natural resources, where will we turn?

I don't think any of us want to face that question, so let's make sure we don't. Please support this legislation. It is the right thing to do.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TER-
RORIST APPREHENSION RECORD
RETENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Terrorist Apprehension Record Retention Act of 2005" or "TARR Act," legislation designed to make it much easier for State and Federal counterterrorism officials to track known or suspected members of a terrorist organization who attempt to purchase dangerous firearms here in the U.S. I am joined by Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut.

According to a recently released Government Accountability Office ("GAO") report, over the course of a nine-month span last year, a total of fifty-six (56) firearm purchase attempts were made by individuals designated as known or suspected terrorists by the Federal Government. In forty-seven (47) of those cases, State and Federal authorities were forced to permit such transactions to proceed because officials were unable to find any disqualifying information (such as a prior felony conviction or court-determined 'mental defect') in the individual applicant's background. Under current law, neither suspected nor actual membership in a terrorist organization is a sufficient ground, in and of itself, to prevent such a purchase from taking place.

Even more troubling than this apparent loophole in our current system of gun laws is